

United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO. FIRST NAMED APPLICANT ATTY. DOCKET NO.

10/547,535 Shigeo Kittaka 10873.1764USWO

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP04/02749

I.A. FILING DATE

PRIORITY DATE

03/04/2004

03/04/2003

52835 HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER & LARSON, P.C. P.O. BOX 2902 **MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0902**

CONFIRMATION NO. 8143 371 ACCEPTANCE LETTER *OC000000019946767*

Date Mailed: 08/08/2006

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C 371 AND 37 CFR 1.495

The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as a Designated / Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is ACCEPTED for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

08/31/2005

08/31/2005

DATE OF RECEIPT OF 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS

DATE OF COMPLETION OF ALL 35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS

A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. THE DATE APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE "FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE. The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363). Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

The following items have been received:

- Copy of the International Application filed on 08/31/2005
- Copy of the International Search Report filed on 08/31/2005
- Preliminary Amendments filed on 08/31/2005
- Information Disclosure Statements filed on 08/31/2005
- Oath or Declaration filed on 08/31/2005
- Request for Immediate Examination filed on 08/31/2005
- U.S. Basic National Fees filed on 08/31/2005
- Assignment filed on 08/31/2005
- Priority Documents filed on 08/31/2005
- Power of Attorney filed on 08/31/2005
- Non-English Language Application filed on 08/31/2005

- Specification filed on 08/31/2005
- Claims filed on 08/31/2005
- Abstracts filed on 08/31/2005
- Drawings filed on 08/31/2005

Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

TERRY M JOHNSON VESSELS Telephone: (703) 308-9140 EXT 221

PART 3 - OFFICE COPY

FORM PCT/DO/EO/903 (371 Acceptance Notice)